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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/772,111 | 02/03/2004 | Kenny C. Gross | SUN-P8963-SPL | 4852 |

57960 7590 05/18/2007
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| EXAMINER |
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BUI, BRYAN

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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05/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

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| Application No. 10/772,111 | Applicant(s) GROSS ET AL. | |
| Examiner Bryan Bui | Art Unit 2863 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8,10-18,20-28 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8,10-18,20-28, and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 2863

1. Applicant's paper filed on 3/19/2007 have been received and entered. Claims 9, 19 and 29 have been cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-28 and 30 are pending in the application.
2. Applicant's remark has been considered, but it is not persuasive. The phrase "include at least one *of...and* a signal associated with a canary performance parameter" is a Markush group. Therefore, the rejection is still maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gross et al (US 5764509).

With respect to claims 1, 11 and 21, Gross et al teach a method/ a computer-readable storage medium/apparatus (figures 1, 5) for replacing a signal from failed sensor with an estimated signal derived from correlations with other instrument signals in the computer system comprising determining whether a sensor has failed (column 4, lines 46-49, column 7, lines 30-40), and if the sensor has failed, using an estimated signal (virtual signal) for the failed sensor in place of the actual signal from the failed sensor during subsequent operation of the computer system, whereby the computer system can continue operating without the failed sensor (column 7, lines 26-62); wherein the estimated signal (virtual signal) is derived from correlations with other

Art Unit: 2863

instrument signals in the computer system that includes at least one of a signal associated with an internal performance parameter/physical performance parameter (noisy signal with high reliability, temperature, etc in column 7, lines 25-40).

With respect to claims 2-4, 12-14, and 22-24, Gross et al in figures 1, 5 and column 7, lines 26-62, teach wherein determining whether the sensor has failed involves deriving an estimated signal for the sensor from correlations with other instrumentation signals in the computer system and comparing a signal from the sensor with estimated signal to determine whether the sensor has failed; wherein comparing the signal from the sensor with the estimated signal involves using sequential detection methods to detect changes in the relationship between the signal from the failed sensor and estimated signal; wherein the sequential detection methods include the Sequential Probability Ratio Test (SPRT).

With respect to claims 5-7, 15-17, and 25-27, Gross et al, in SMSET MODULE, column 37-38 (appendix c); column 1, line 62+, and column 6, line 30 to column 8, line 5, teach prior to determining whether the sensor has failed, further comprising determining correlations between instrumentation signals, whereby the correlations can subsequently be used to generate estimated signals; the correlations involves using a non-linear, non-parametric regression technique to determine the correlations; wherein the non-linear, non-parametric regression technique includes a multivariate state estimation technique.

With respect to claim 10, 20 and 30, Gross et al teach the sensor can be totally failed or a sensor with degraded performance (column 7, lines 33+).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-2271. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 6am-3pm, and Alternate Fridays.

Art Unit: 2863

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BB

5/14/07

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

